



Rebuilding Afghanistan

Weekly Activity Update for June 10 to June 23, 2004

Issue 61

United States Agency for International Development

STRENGTHENING THE GOVERNMENT

Program Goals

- Support the Bonn process: the Constitutional, Human Rights and Judicial Commissions; the 2004 elections; and a free and independent media.
- Strengthen government budgeting, revenue generation (e.g., customs), monetary management, private-sector related legal and regulatory frameworks, and promote private enterprises.
- Build capacity to carry out other legitimate government functions and support reconstruction of health, judicial, education, economic, agricultural and transportation infrastructure.

Recent Progress:

- **Juye Naw Spillway in Anjeel district of Herat:** This month, through USAID's Provincial Reconstruction Teams' Quick Impact Program, a spillway in Herat province (western Afghanistan) was completed. The spillway will protect more than 122,000 people from seasonal flooding, and will help regulate one of the district's most important waterways that provides irrigation. This project was initiated through Herat's Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT). PRTs are joint civil-military units deployed in various regions of the country, and their goal is to strengthen the reach and enhance the legitimacy of the central government, as well as improve security and facilitate reconstruction efforts such as the Juye Naw spillway.
- **USAID to Provide Assistance for Three Industrial Parks:** USAID began initial survey and infrastructure activities for industrial parks in Kabul (eastern Afghanistan), Kandahar (southern Afghanistan) and Mazar-e-Sharif (northern Afghanistan). Industrial parks serve as an important catalyst for growth, and are integral in organizing and concentrating scarce public infrastructure resources, facilitating private investor interest, and generating employment opportunities. By leasing or buying space in a park revitalized by USAID support, investors can enter a new market with reduced financial risk, and can bypass delays related to site acquisition, zoning and permitting. The parks supported by USAID were selected to serve as models that will lead to additional industrial developments, and leverage resources together with private-sector anchor investors, such as the Coca-Cola Company.
- **Gardez Provincial Women's Center:** In late May, USAID began work in Gardez (eastern Afghanistan) on the fifth of 14 provincial women's centers. The centers—once built—provide outreach for the Afghan Ministry of Women's Affairs (MOWA). They will offer a variety of courses, activities and events to support MOWA's efforts to involve Afghan women in political life, promote their education and enhance their employment prospects. The groundbreaking ceremony for the Gardez center was attended by the Governor of Paktia province, MOWA representatives from Kabul and Paktia, USAID officials and other dignitaries. USAID continues construction work on centers in Parwan and Kapisa provinces in the east and in Farah and Badghis in the west.



PRT project: The Juye Naw spillway in Herat province (western Afghanistan). The sign states that the spillway is a gift from the US and Afghan governments. Photo taken by USAID contractor, IOM (International Organization for Migration)



Industrial park site in Kabul.



Industrial park site in Kandahar.



Industrial park site in Mazar-e-Sharif.

INCREASING ACCESS TO BASIC HEALTH CARE

Program Goals

- 400 health centers renovated or constructed in rural areas, providing services to an estimated 12 million people.
- 11 million beneficiaries assured improved access to basic services in 13 provinces; 4.4 million women and children given access to services through USAID's health care initiative grants.
- 3,400 new community health workers, 990 midwives, and 6,000 clinic staff trained.
- Make safe water systems, contraceptives, mosquito nets and other health products available at reasonable prices using existing trading and marketing systems.
- Strengthen MOH capacity at the national and provincial levels for guiding effective health care policy; develop a public health education program; determine a sustainable health finance policy; strengthen human resource development; improve hospital management; and expand and improve the HMIS.

Recent Progress:

- Clinic Construction:** To date, USAID has contracted to construct or rehabilitate over 260 clinics. The clinics will be constructed throughout the country and will provide basic health care services.

Recent Progress (continued):

- Clinic Construction (continued):** As Afghanistan has the worst child and maternal mortality rates in the world, services that the clinics will provide include prenatal/postpartum care, child vaccinations, provision of basic medicines, and delivery care by trained providers such as midwives.



Clinic under construction in Turmai in Ghazni province.

SECURITY SITUATION

Security Incidents Involving USAID Reconstruction Programs

The incidents below were reported in the Associated Press or in USAID contractor reports.

- On June 6, a convoy of four vehicles carrying 15 Afghan and foreign election workers was attacked in Shwak district of Paktia province (southeastern Afghanistan). The attackers used rocket propelled grenades (RPGs) and gunfire. The police escorting the convoy returned fire, allowing for the vehicles to retreat. No injuries were reported.
- On June 7, a hand grenade was thrown into a USAID contractor's office in Baraki Rajan village in Logar (eastern Afghanistan) province. No injuries were reported.
- On June 10, eleven Chinese road workers and 3 Afghan security guards were killed, and 4 Chinese road workers injured. The attack occurred at a work site in Baghlan province near the south border of Kunduz province (northern Afghanistan).
- On June 10, a team of UN counter-narcotics officials were driving between Takhar and Kunduz provinces when their vehicle was hit by a bomb. No injuries were reported.
- On June 10, six gunmen held up a USAID contractor's vehicle returning from the bank. When the vehicle arrived at its intended destination, the gunmen pulled up behind the vehicle, pulled out the driver and passenger and took the vehicle along with the money. No injuries were reported.
- On June 11, a convoy of 30 vehicles carrying UN and Afghan government officials and escorted by US and Afghan soldiers was attacked in Paktika province (southeastern Afghanistan). The attackers fired approximately 11 rocket propelled grenades (RPGs) at the convoy. No injuries were reported.
- On June 11, two UN demining vehicles escorted by two security vehicles were traveling along the Kabul-to-Gardez provincial road when they were attacked by unknown assailants with RPGs. No injuries were reported.

Accumulative Table of Security Incidents Involving USAID Reconstruction Programs

The table below reflects security incidents reported above, as well as in prior Rebuilding Afghanistan weeklies (note, Kabul-Kandahar-Herat road security incidents are no longer reported in the Rebuilding Afghanistan weekly, but are reported in USAID's Road Update).

Indicator (Hostile Attacks)	Report Period	Cumulative Total
Persons Kidnapped/Released (since 5/04)	0/0	0/0
Persons Injured/Killed (since 3/03)	4/14	18/48
Other Hostile Attacks (since 3/03)	6	8

* Because Kabul-Kandahar-Herat road incidents are no longer included in the table, there are discrepancies between this week's report and last week's report.



Rebuilding Afghanistan

Weekly Activity Update for June 2 – June 8
Issue 59

United States Agency for International Development

Special Supplement: How USAID Gets the Job Done

Overview

USAID re-opened the doors to its Mission in Kabul in January 2002, shortly after the fall of the Taliban regime in November 2001. A small staff of six began work at the rudimentary facilities on the American Embassy grounds with the pressing challenge of initiating and overseeing a wide range of emergency and development activities, including producing textbooks for the start of the Afghan school year in March. Since then, both the USAID program and staff have grown greatly, facilities have expanded, and the implementation of an accelerated strategic development program is well underway.

USAID implements its humanitarian and development programs in Afghanistan through grants and contracts to NGOs and contractors. Its staff's expertise lies in deciding between competing priorities for program funds, coordinating with other donors and the host country government, supervising and mentoring the work of development partners, and practicing the art of "getting things done" in an extremely challenging work environment.

Home Sweet 'Hooch'

To speed set-up of the Mission, temporary facilities known as 'hooches' were installed throughout the Embassy grounds. These are ordinary steel shipping containers refurbished as living and working space. While hooches remain the primary facilities for the Mission's living and working space, as the staff has expanded, more facilities have been brought on-line. Currently, USAID occupies 12 hooches on the Embassy grounds, and refurbished buildings on the DoD "Phoenix" and "Kabul" compounds.

Development is underway on the CAFÉ site (Compound Across From Embassy), which will house the Mission for the next few years. The CAFÉ is scheduled for completion in July 2004 and will allow all USAID staff to finally be co-located.

Leveraging Their Effectiveness

To understand USAID's reach and impact in Afghanistan, it is helpful to think of the metaphor of an iceberg. What is visible above the waterline are the USAID staff, composed of:

- Direct Hires
- Personal Services Contractors, and
- Foreign Service Nationals

What is invisible to most outsiders, however, are the hundreds of contractor and grantee staff working on USAID projects, including Afghan professionals. These staff serve as advisors and temporary staff to the Afghan ministries in order to fill their gaps for qualified personnel and help them to meet their objectives. This cadre of expatriate and Afghan professionals working as advisors to senior Ministry officials and in middle management has greatly improved the effectiveness of the Afghan government and its ability to coordinate and guide donor efforts.



Row of 'hooches' used for living and working space on Embassy grounds.



USAID staff at work.

USAID in Afghanistan

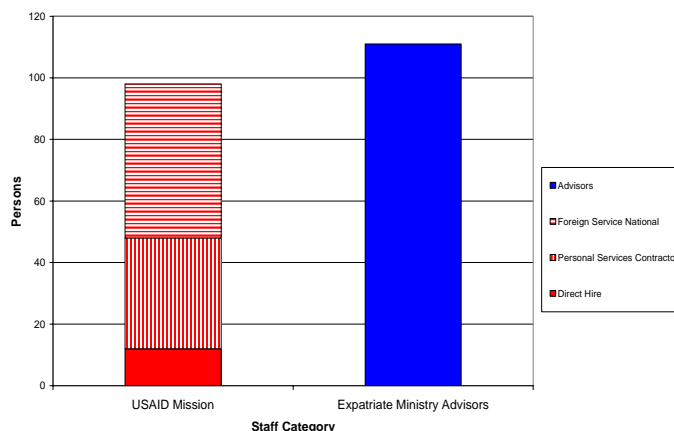


Chart shows USAID Mission staff in left bar as well as expatriate staff working on USAID projects in Ministries.